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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit
Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

July 16, 2010

Contact: David Madden (415) 355-8800

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference to Include Presentations of Judicial Awards

SAN FRANCISCO – Federal judges from California and Nevada, an Idaho attorney and the University of Washington School of Law will be honored at the 2010 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, scheduled for August 16-19 in Hawaii.

Two awards will be presented during the conference's opening session on August 16. Senior District Judge Howard D. McKibben of the United States District Court for the District of Nevada will receive the prestigious Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award from the American Inns of Court. Senior Circuit Judge Dorothy W. Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will receive a special ADR Lifetime Achievement Award for her tireless efforts to promote use of alternative dispute resolution methods to resolve conflicts prior to court.

Two more awards will be presented during the conference program on August 18. Attorney Paul "Larry" Westberg of Boise, Idaho, will receive the John P. Frank Award, which recognizes an outstanding lawyer practicing in the federal courts of the western United States. The UW School of Law will receive the Ninth Circuit ADR Education Award, recognizing institutions which have advanced ADR scholarship and research.

American Inns of Court Professionalism Award

The American Inns of Court award will be presented to Judge McKibben by Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, a former national trustee of the organization, which promotes mentorship among its more than 26,000 members in 350 chapters nationwide. The award is given annually to a senior practicing judge or lawyer "whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession."

Judge McKibben, who maintains chambers in Reno, has helped establish two American Inns of Court in Nevada, one of which is now named in his honor. In nominating him for the award, colleagues remarked upon his integrity, intellect, generosity and collegiality.

Judge McKibben was nominated to the federal bench by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate in 1984. He served as chief judge of the district court from 1997 to 2002 and took senior status in 2005. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he had served as a judge of the Nevada Ninth Judicial District Court from 1977 to 1984, and as the Douglas County (Nevada) district attorney from 1971 to 1977 and deputy district attorney from 1969 to 1971. He received his B.S. from Bradley University in 1962, an M.P.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1964, and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1967.

ADR Lifetime Achievement Award

The ADR Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Judge Nelson by Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke, the new chair of the Ninth Circuit ADR Committee. Judge Nelson was nominated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Carter and confirmed by the Senate in 1979. She assumed senior status in 1995 but continues to hear cases and serve on circuit committees. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, she had served for more than two decades on the faculty of the University of Southern California Law School, culminating in her appointment as dean from 1969 to 1980. She received her A.B. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1950, her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law in 1953, and her LL.M. from the USC Law School in 1956.

Until stepping down as chair earlier this year, Judge Nelson had led the Ninth Circuit ADR Committee since its inception in December 1997. Under her direction, the committee developed an array of ADR tools, including a guidebook, a comprehensive model local rule for district courts, and no fewer than seven educational programs. Under her leadership, the committee also sought to recognize ADR efforts, winning approval from the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit for awards honoring individual and institutional excellence.

In addition to her work with the courts, Judge Nelson also founded the Western Justice Center in Pasadena, California, a nonprofit research and development organization dedicated to improving justice and replicating new conflict resolution methods. She is a recipient of the American Bar Association's 2000 D'Alemberte/Raven Award for outstanding contributions in the ADR field.

John P. Frank Award

Mr. Westberg, a partner in the Boise law firm of Westberg McCabe & Collins, is widely regarded as one of Idaho's top criminal defense lawyers and also practices general litigation. His

career spans four decades and includes service as a federal prosecutor in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho. He is admitted to practice before the Idaho federal district court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Long active in efforts to improve the bar and judicial system, Mr. Westberg served as a director of the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and was the incorporator and first president of the Federal Defenders Services of Idaho, Inc. He is a founding member of the Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys and the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, and is currently a Criminal Justice Act (CJA) attorney representing indigent defendants in Idaho. He also was instrumental in organizing the Idaho chapter of the Federal Bar Association, served as its first president, and represented it to the National Federal Bar Association. He currently chairs the national FBA's Government Relations Committee.

In nominating Mr. Westberg for the John P. Frank Award, the Board of Judges of the District of Idaho pointed to his lengthy and distinguished record, both as a practicing attorney and bar leader. Steve Cochran, chair of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board, will present the award.

ADR Education Award

The UW School of Law has thoroughly integrated alternative dispute resolution into its educational program, from basic curriculum through advanced courses. Among its J.D. graduates, 50 percent have taken basic negotiations or an ADR survey course, and more than 25 percent were enrolled in a more specialized, related course offering.

Beyond the classroom, the school offers ADR clinical programs, including a Mediation Clinic that provides intensive training, followed by actual mediation of small claims, landlord-tenant, workplace and consumer-merchant disputes, and inter-personal conflicts. Faculty and students also participate in a two-day Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference held on campus each spring, and the school sponsors student teams competing in local, national and international contests focusing on arbitration, mediation and negotiation.

Magistrate Judge Cooke will present the award to UW School of Law Dean Kellye Y. Testy.

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference meets pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code for "the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit." The Ninth Circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the district and bankruptcy courts and related court units for the district and bankruptcy courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.